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Photo Essay: Great Rift Valley, Tanzania

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Photo Essay
Great Rift Valley, Tanzania



Few places in Tanzania can claim a connection to the Great Rift Valley like the north central region of Manyara. Its dramatic landscape consists of ancient volcanoes, boulders the size of houses, expansive valleys, and seemingly bottomless lakes formed from calderas. Though this region is one of the least populated in Tanzania, some tribes, like the Iraqw, have found ways to support themselves by working with the natural landscape. Each day, women and children, along with their livestock, make the journey down into the crater to visit Lake Bassotughang, one of many small freshwater lakes in this place. There they wash clothes, bathe, and gather water for drinking. Without these life-sustaining lakes, many of the people and wildlife would be unable to sustain themselves during the lengthy dry season.

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